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agricultural situation

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

58/2

EFFICIENCY WINNER

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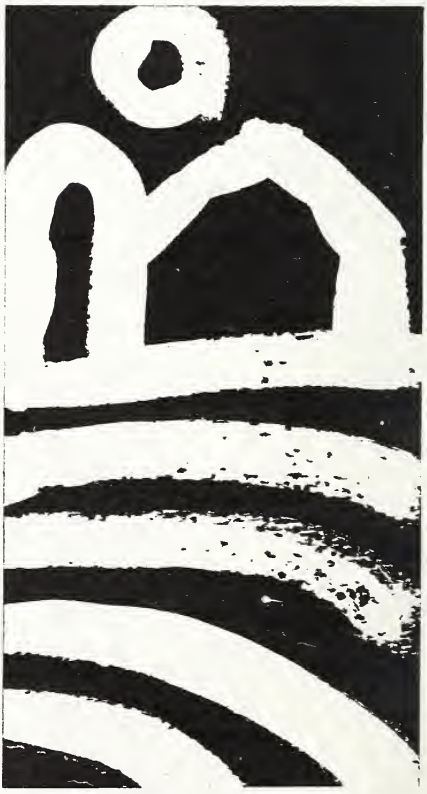


A one-man farm, with the right machines and enough land to use them effectively, is just as efficient, in terms of unit costs, as any enterprise employing more labor. In fact, it's even more efficient on occasion, according to a year-long study by USDA economists.

Efficient One-Man Farms Aren't Small, Though.

"Technically optimum" one-man farms—meaning those achieving peak operational efficiency along with the lowest production costs per unit of output—tend to be far larger than the average in the United States today.

(See the table on page 4 for the optimal sizes of seven different crop farm types.)

Optimum cash grain farms in the Corn Belt, for example, have just about double the acreage as the average reported during the last agricultural census. At that time the average size of commercial cash grain

farms was 263 acres in Indiana and 694 acres in Kansas.

Furthermore, capital, management, and technical skills required on these one-man farms are roughly equal to those in a small manufacturing plant.

While still not numerous, one-man farms of optimal size are found in many farming communities. And there will likely be more in the years ahead since these farms can compete effectively in modern agriculture.

What Determines Optimum Farm Size?

Efficiency—that is, achieving the lowest production costs per acre or per unit of output—rests heavily on effective use of tractors and other farm machinery and equipment.

These expensive items represent a large fixed charge on all farms—and the more fully they are used, the lower will be per unit production costs.

(Costs for such items as feed, seed, fertilizer, and pesticides are pretty much the same per acre or per unit of output, regardless of farm size.)

Technically optimum one-man farms need to be as big as possible to employ the operator and his complement of machines to the fullest. But often the optimal size of a farm is limited by the number of working days available for critical farming operations.

To illustrate, planting dates for spring wheat in a particular area may be confined to a specific 10-day period to realize maximum yields. If during that 10-day period a farmer can only manage to plant 300 acres of wheat, that's the effective limit on his farm size, regardless of whether he has the machine capacity to cultivate 400 acres or to harvest 500 acres.

However, a farmer might follow several different strategies to get around such planting limitations and so use all his machines to their maximum.

He could, for instance, buy or rent land in areas where the planting seasons don't coincide. A case in point would be northern and southern Kansas. Then he could farm both parts of his operation by transporting his machines back and forth between the two units.

Farfetched? Not really. The typical "farm" today is frequently not one contiguous area of land—like a 160-acre homestead. Instead, it may consist of several noncontiguous pieces—40, 80, 160 acres and so on—each rented from a different landowner. The collection of pieces making up the "farm" may vary from year to year with some dropped as others are added.

Another tactic might be to grow a secondary crop with different critical dates for planting than the primary crop. Again, this would

enable the farmer to use his machines more fully—so long as he didn't have to buy extra equipment for the secondary crop.

Lastly, custom hiring part or all of peak season harvesting chores would also enable the farmer to

expand his technically optimum farm size.

If Optimum One-Man Farms Are So Efficient . . .?

If optimum one-man farms are really so efficient, how come there are still farmers operating on a smaller scale?

Even more strangely, how come there are farmers operating enterprises where they have to hire labor?

The economists noted a number of reasons why many farm operators do not reach the technically optimum size.

Some are part-time farmers who have nonfarm jobs—full or part-time—which claim their attention.

Some cannot accumulate the necessary capital.

Some are not maximizers. They feel safer with less debt, even though it means a more moderate income.

For all of these reasons smaller than optimum one-man farms will continue to exist.

As for the farms that have to hire labor, these frequently are less efficient than one-man operations due to the increasing burden of supervision and communication between the operator and workers.

But it must be remembered that a farmer who uses hired labor does so not to reduce his per unit production costs, but to increase his volume of output. The larger the output, the larger the total income—even if production is somewhat less efficient than on an optimum one-man farm.

HOW BIG ARE THEY? The seven one-man farms listed below illustrate the wide range in technically optimum sizes that occur with different crops in different parts of the country. In dryland farming regions, for instance, wheat farms have an acre in fallow for each acre in crop—hence, they're twice as large as wheat farms in humid regions. On the other hand, irrigated farms are smaller because the land is cropped intensively. The best measure of size is man-units, based on the concept of "the man and his complement of machines."

OPTIMAL SIZE FOR SEVEN SAMPLE FARMS

Type of farm	Acres	Land value	Other capital
Montana wheat barley	1,960	$245,000	$57,000
Kansas wheat-grain sorghum	1,950	200,000	55,000
Indiana corn-soybean	800	480,000	130,000
Louisiana rice-soybean	360	108,000	50,000
Delta cotton-soybean	600	255,000	80,000
California irrigated cotton	400	320,000	64,000
California vegetable	200	400,000	85,000

SMALL CHANGE, BIG DIFFERENCE

A nickel or a dime more or less in the price of a bag of feed may not seem like much. But it can easily make a million-dollar difference in farmers' net income.

Livestock and poultry feeds are just about the top items on the U.S. farmers' shopping list each year—and because they're bought more frequently and in larger quantities than just about any other item, they pack a real wallop on the pocketbook.

Of course, nothing that farmers buy to produce farm products is truly an insignificant expenditure. Outlays for seeds, plants and trees—which a recent SRS survey showed involved only about 2½ cents out of every production dollar—still add up to $1 billion plus nationwide.

Knowing what farmers spend on production items is critical in getting a true picture of their net income and their economic well-being compared with the rest of the Nation.

SRS bears the responsibility within USDA for collecting expenditure data—and to do this it uses a two-pronged approach.

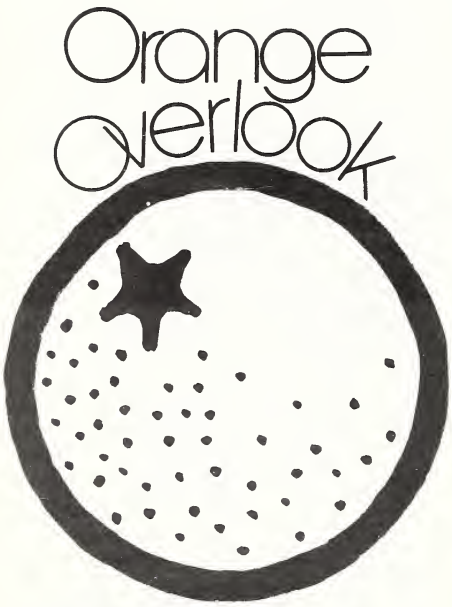
Each month or quarter the statisticians track the prices of various farm goods and services through surveys that involve approximately 70,000 retailers who deal with farm operators. And once a year they survey expenditure patterns—how much farmers buy how often.

This year's expenditure survey will be conducted from March 4 through April 6. Approximately 2,000 farmers from all parts of the Nation will be asked for some general information on outlays for such input groups as machinery, building materials, petroleum products, fertilizer, interest, taxes, wages, and so forth.

In addition, the operators will also be asked to provide greater detail for a few input groups.

The 1974 survey is the second in a series conducted by SRS in 5-year cycles. Data on farmers' spending for production items are collected for 4 consecutive years; the fifth year the focus is on expenditures for family living items.

Informatiom from the annual surveys is critically important to the many USDA agencies which measure and study farmers' net income. At the end of the 5-year cycle, SRS will use the data to revise the weights, or relative importance, given to various goods and services included in SRS' prices paid index.



AT HOME

While orange and green lie on opposite ends of the color wheel, they downright overlap on the wheel of fortune.

The U.S. orange crop (including Temples), valued at $552 million in 1972, is worth more to the U.S. farmers than any other fruit.

The production of this half-billion dollar crop has undergone significant changes in the past two decades.

Bearing orange acreage (including Temples) has increased about 61 percent since 1950, in marked contrast to deciduous tree acreage which fell about 29 percent.

Orange production (including Temples) has risen from the approximately 5-million-ton crops of the early 1950's to a record 10 million tons in 1972/73.

Primarily because of climate, orange groves are concentrated in Florida, California, Arizona, and Texas. Florida took the lead in production in 1945/46 and the Sunshine State's share has widened from 60 percent of total production at the start of the 1950's to the current 79 percent.

The 1961/62 season firmly set the trend for Florida as extensive new plantings began to bear, and production rose over 1 million tons from the previous year.

New plantings in the Sunshine State have doubled the hike in our orange production since the start of the 1960's. The State's trees—the bearing ones, that is—fill 646,000 acres, more than double the 1950 acreage.

California reached its orange production zenith in 1944/45, and since the early 1950's the Golden State's share of national orange output has slipped from 37 to 16 percent.

Many orchards felt the ax in the face of southern California's urban expansion. However, bearing acres have expanded recently, mainly in central California. Currently California bearing acres total 195,700. This is still below the early 1950's level, but rising as trees planted in the mid-1960's start to bear.

Arizona and Texas, accounting for around 5 percent of production, have expanded their acreages enough during the past two decades to keep their share of orange output from the 1950's till now. Texas acreage has increased 52 percent and Arizona more than doubled since 1950.

EXPORTS

The U.S. orange bobs abroad on waters turned choppy with competition by burgeoning foreign production and preferential trade practices.

Ironically, although the U.S. citrus industry has boosted total sales overseas during the past two decades, it's seen its world market share shrink.

Here's how the situation stands:

—U.S. fresh orange exports gained 8 percent from the early 1950's through the start of the 1970's. This element of the orange trade is under particular pressure in the European Community which offers favorable trade conditions to Mediterranian citrus producers. Our exports to Europe in 1969/70 were off 35 percent from a year earlier.

—Sales of our processed products skyrocketed in the 1950-70 period, exemplified by frozen juice shipments which bounded from just under 650,000 gallons to 7.7 million.

—To handle this Vitamin C demand from abroad and domestically, U.S. orchardists advanced production 70 percent from 1950-52 to 1969-71. But foreign farmers and agricultural planners, also sensing a ready source of foreign exchange, expanded orange output 2½ times.

This had the net effect of slicing the U.S. share of world orange production from the 40 percent level attained in the 1950's to a current 30 percent. At the same time, the United States saw the portion of its total production exported drop from 5½ percent to nearer 3½ percent.

JAPANESE JUICE

A new Oriental trade paradox may benefit U.S. orange growers. The Japanese have too many oranges and are importing some U.S. frozen orange juice to solve their surplus.

Japan's problem is one of overproduction of mikan oranges (marketed in the United States as mandarin oranges). Mikan production has risen a startling 264 percent in the last decade, going from 892,000 metric tons in 1962 to 3.6 million in 1972. And Japan's Ministry of Agriculture expects production to total 4.3 million metric tons by 1982, based on new grove plantings.

Development of Japan's domestic juice market appears to be the most promising solution to the mikan orange surplus, but the market is likely to be difficult to expand substantially. The acid content of mikan juice is high, making it unappealing to many Japanese consumers.

Japanese grower cooperatives are working to develop less acid varieties of juice-type mikans, but the greatest promise, according to many Japanese and most Americans interested in the problem—appears to be in blending sweet U.S. juice with the domestic product.

Japan has always severely restricted the import of concentrated orange juice. However, in 1972 a special 500-ton import quota for concentrated orange juice was allocated to four Japanese juice manufacturers' associations. This juice—and virtually all other orange juice imported by Japan—was supplied by the United States and Brazil.

The import quota from April 1, 1973 through March 31, 1974 was extended further. A global total of 1,000 metric tons—twice the 1972 level—was authorized. Included in that total was a special 350-ton quota for the stated purpose of selling more locally produced mikan juice by enhancing its quality through blending.

If Japan were to liberalize its concentrated orange juice import quotas, the Japanese market for U.S. juice could surge to $50 million annually during the next 3 to 5 years.

FLORIDA'S CITRUS CENSUS

Something in the stereoscope catches the interpreter's eye. He studies the pictures closely for a minute or so, then makes a notation on a pad close by.

Eventually that note will send a ground crew out to check if the acreage change the interpreter thinks he has spotted on the photo has actually occurred.

Right now the Florida Crop and Livestock Reporting Service in Orlando has all of its photo interpreters hard at work studying hundreds of airphotos taken last November and December.

The interpreters are comparing these new photos with ones taken along the same flight lines 2 years earlier to detect any changes that have occurred in Florida's citrus tree inventory in the meantime.

New groves, cleared land, additions or excessive resets in existing groves will all show up on the airphotos. The experts can also spot groves that have been bulldozed out or altered and those that may have been abandoned, as well as ones with excessive vacancies or dead trees. Ground checks are always made to confirm significant changes.

Robert McGregor, statistician in charge of the Orlando office, credits these biennial tree surveys for providing the Florida citrus industry with the most detailed statistics for any U.S. fruit crop.

Many industry groups use the tree numbers for such things as planning, market promotion, long range projections, and site locations for plants and facilities.

For SRS the tree survey is fundamental to the entire citrus estimating program—which includes limb count surveys, monthly size and crop surveys, row count surveys, and maturity tests.

"All our samples for limb count and size and crop surveys are drawn from our tree census," McGregor notes. "The computerized census records allow us to set up special surveys very rapidly, such as the one following the 1970-71 freeze along Florida's west coast."

McGregor also emphasizes that growers who take the time and effort to study the citrus tree census data can detect many trends, by fruit type and county, which may affect their livelihood.

"If you look at the series of surveys, there are many things of value to be learned," McGregor states. "Number one, the tremendous expansion that took place during the 1960's has stopped. Since the 1965 peak, when 82,117 new acres were set, there has been a steady decline. In the last 2 recorded years, 1970 and 1971, the number of acres set did not nearly keep pace with removals."

"If I may speculate a little, I would surmise that the same may be true for the calendar years 1972 and 1973. Grapefruit appears to be the only major fruit type that has held its own during the last few years."

"It is also interesting to note that, as of the 1971 survey, half of all the State's grapefruit acreage was located along the east coast. However, that was not yet true of grapefruit production."

McGregor's office plans to have the results of the 1973 tree survey published by summer 1974.

Airphotos can alert SRS to possible changes in citrus acreage which can be confirmed later by ground checks.

MATURITY TESTING

When will my oranges be ripe enough to pick? This is a $64 question for growers because if they pick too early or too late, they miss getting the best yields from their fruit and end up with lower returns.

And it's a fact that many growers are missing out. The record large early and midseason orange crop of 1972/73 was slow to be utilized because growers didn't begin volume harvesting early enough.

The problem lies with current methods for maturity testing. At present such tests are often made in a haphazard manner when the fruit are almost ready for picking. This puts growers under tremendous time pressure when they gear up for harvest.

Consequently, Florida citrus growers have requested the SRS office in Orlando to see if it's possible to forecast when the orange crop will be mature.

SRS has already had such marked success in developing early season indications of the orange crop's pounds solids content that the growers are hoping for a repeat with maturity forecasts for oranges.

The first phase of the project is underway this season as statisticians in the Florida office sample 50 orange groves within a 50-mile radius of Orlando. Their aim is to see whether data drawn from weekly fruit samples will allow them to draw any inferences about maturity.

The statisticians are hopeful that their work may lead to operational maturity date forecasts within the next 3 to 5 years.

Not only growers, but processors too, stand to gain from more advance information about fruit maturity. The better they can schedule their work flow, the more efficiently they can use their plant capacity—which helps them cut their operating costs.

SURVEYSCOPE

To give our readers a clearer picture of the vast scope of SRS activities, Agricultural Situation presents a series of articles on special surveys undertaken in various States. While these are not national surveys, they are important to the agriculture in individual States.

Even if it's a dreamhouse, every home needs just a little extra landscaping—a few plants the builder didn't put in, perhaps a flowering tree, maybe some extra sod for a bare spot here and there.

Homeowners—and hobby gardeners—are the reason that flowers, shrubs, and trees were worth close to a billion dollars to farmers in 1972, ranking as the 11th most valuable agricultural commodity.

Amongst the leading garden States, in fact No. 7, is the Nation's Garden State, New Jersey. Situated near the cities and suburbs that contain nearly two-fifths of the U.S. population, the production of nursery and greenhouse products has become New Jersey's fourth most valuable farm enterprise.

Cash receipts from plants and flowers and shrubs and sod totaled close to $39.6 million in 1972, roughly 17 percent of the Garden State's total cash receipts from farming.

Because of the growing importance of this industry, nursery interests and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Division of Markets requested New Jersey's Crop Reporting Service in Trenton to compile a special "buyers' guide" for the nursery products industry.

Worth about $39.6 million in 1972, production of greenhouse and nursery products . . .

The feeling was that such a guide would be invaluable in servicing requests about where to buy certain nursery products—and it would also be helpful to producers in gauging just how much of a commodity could be produced with a reasonable expectation that it could be marketed profitably.

Survey work for the guide got underway during the late winter, according to Ray Crickenberger, Statistician-in-Charge of the New Jersey office. "We mailed out questionnaires to all of the State's certified nurserymen who had at least 1 acre of planted stock, and we also sent questionnaires to all cultivated sod producers."

"We asked these people to provide us with information for over 367 plant, tree, and sod types—which will enable us to make a comprehensive inventory of the State's nursery and sod production. We're planning to include several listings in the directory—alphabetical by growers, by county, and by type and size of plant material."

The goal is to have the completed guide ready for publication late in 1974.

"And we hope, if everything goes well, to undertake a similar project for the greenhouse segment of the industry sometime during the next fiscal year," Crickenberger adds.

In New Jersey the nursery project is being financed by State funds matched with Federal funds under the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, as provided by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

New Jersey is not the first State to compile a nursery or greenhouse products guide. At least two other SRS offices—North Carolina and Virginia—have been involved in similar projects.

North Carolina, where nursery product and greenhouse sales amounted to about $24.5 million in 1972, makes an inventory of products and producers every 2 years. Virginia, with $3.5 million worth of sales, conducts an annual survey.

. . . has grown into the Garden State's fourth most valuable agricultural enterprise.

Briefings

RECENT REPORTS BY USDA OF ECONOMIC, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FARMERS

LESS MONEY IN 1974 . . . Net farm income is forecast at $20 to $23 billion in 1974, down from the record of over $25 billion last year but still the second highest ever. USDA economists expect that, barring bad weather, farm prices of both crops and livestock will average about the same this year as in 1973 while marketings may edge up. However, partially offsetting will be lower government payments—down sharply from 1973's $2.6 billion—and a roughly 5% rise in production expenditures. All of this year's increase in production expenditures is expected to be in spending for inputs of nonfarm origin.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF FARMERS . . . The value of assets in the farming sector as of January 1, 1974 was $441 billion, up 15% from a year earlier. Farm real estate made up two-thirds of these assets. Total debt, at $80 billion, was up 9%. With the value of assets increasing faster than debt, debt amounted to 18% of assets, compared with 19% the year before. The ratio of net income from farm sources to total debt outstanding is one measure of farmers' ability to service their outstanding debt commitments. This ratio was expected to be about 36% at the end of 1973, up some 4 percentage points from the ratio reported for the end of 1972.

LAND USE INVENTORY . . . About 80% of the more than 2 billion acres of land in the United States is used for crops, pasture, and forestry, according to USDA economists. Their analysis of data from the recent census, USDA agencies, and other government sources shows that about one-fifth of our total area is devoted to crops, more than a fourth is permanent grassland, and one-third is forestland. The rest is distributed among urban and transportation uses (less than 3%); recreational, wildlife, and other extensive special uses (5%); and unclassified areas, including Alaska tundra (13%).

TOBACCO OUTLOOK OPTIMISTIC . . . Higher farm quotas for burley and flue-cured tobacco seem likely this year in face of the brisk demand that prevails for U.S. leaf at home and abroad. In short, growers are expected to produce more tobacco in 1974; price support levels will rise, helping growers obtain prices near last season's record high; and cash receipts should gain from 1973's $1.6 billion. The only sour note: Production costs will climb, too, with big gains coming in fuel and fertilizer spending.

BYE, BYE BOLL WEEVIL . . . The boll weevil can be eliminated as an economic pest of U.S. cotton, according to USDA scientists after a 2-year test of suppression procedures. The scientists have worked out a program of insecticidal, cultural, and biological controls—used simultaneously or in sequence. This integrated program has a suppression effect that is greater than the sum effects of each method employed alone. Were the boll weevil to be wiped out, it would mean an estimated one-third reduction in the total insecticide load put into the environment by U.S. farmers . . . plus a saving of around $200 million annually in cotton losses and $75 million on control measures.

SOYBEAN STATUS REPORT . . . Soybean supplies in 1973/74 total a record high 1,627 million bushels, more than a fifth above last year. An all-time large crop in 1973 of 1,567 million bushels is more than offsetting the small beginning stocks. Soybean demand is staying strong . . . USDA economists expect nearly 1.4 billion bushels to be used in 1973/74, up from 1.3 billion last year. Both crushings and exports are slated to rise. But despite the optimistic demand outlook, there will be a sharp buildup in stocks next September 1 to an estimated 240 million bushels, compared with the extremely low 60 million this year. Economists foresee average 1973/74 prices reaching about $5.65 a bushel (weighted by marketings), about a third above 1972/73.

HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS . . . Following the memorable 1972/73 season of hard-to-get supplies and sky high prices, the demand for high protein feeds in 1973/74 may not increase for the first time in several years, say USDA economists . . . despite larger supplies of soybean meal and lower price prospects. Livestock feeders who were unable to acquire adequate supplies for optimum least-cost rations in 1972/73 adjusted their feeding program by using more nonprotein nitrogen, reducing protein content of rations, and in some cases omitting protein-feed con-

centrates entirely when good quality grain and roughage were available. As a result, feeders may be a little slow in moving back to high protein feed markets, even at prices substantially below the high levels through most of 1972/73.

PROTEIN FEED USAGE . . . Domestic use (soybean meal equivalent excluding urea) in 1973 is forecast at 19.7 million tons, 6% above last season which was the smallest volume in 6 years. High protein animal units are forecast at 143 million, 3% above 1972/73 and the sharpest gain since 1966/67. Coupling the supply with the animal units gives a protein feed disappearance of 276 pounds per animal unit, 8 pounds more than in 1972/73 but still well below the 285-292 pounds of 1969-71.

TURKEY PRODUCTION . . . Output during the first half of 1974 will likely run well above January-June 1973, based on the 13% gain in August-October 1973 poult production over a year earlier and an 8% boost in eggs in incubators on November 1. Price depressing effects of the anticipated larger first half output will be partly offset by strong demand for turkeys for further processing, increased consumer incomes, and relatively high red meat prices. However, turkey prices likely will decline and may dip below year-earlier levels by spring.

BEEFING UP BEEF PRODUCTION . . . USDA researchers see enough capacity for a 60% boost in beef and veal output by 1985—with the quantity climbing from about 21.7 million pounds last year to 35 million pounds if the economic incentive is sufficiently strong. Most of this potential gain would come from a 40% boost in animal numbers; however, there is some potential for upping the output from each animal. Crossbreeding and artificial insemination of beef cows could result in up to 20% gains in beef production efficiency. Multiple births, or twinning, also offers a big potential for lifting production efficiency.

LOOKING BACK AT FOOD CONSUMPTION . . . The sharpest drop in 15 years occurred in per capita food consumption in 1973. About 1-2% less than in 1972, consumption was at its lowest level in 4 years. A gain for crop-related foods, largely fruits and processed vegetables, only partly offset a 3% cut in use of livestock products. Last year saw sharp declines for meat and eggs and smaller drops for poultry and fish.

Statistical Barometer

Item	1971	1972	Latest available data	
Prices:				
All prices received by farmers (1967=100)	126	172	184	December 1973
Crops (1967=100)	115	164	193	December 1973
Food grains (1967=100)	109	212	322	December 1973
Feed grains and hay (1967=100)	105	162	202	December 1973
Feed grains (1967=100)	101	161	202	December 1973
Cotton (1967=100)	127	149	213	December 1973
Tobacco (1967=100)	123	129	136	December 1973
Oil-bearing crops (1967=100)	116	209	205	December 1973
Fruit (1967=100)	115	131	122	December 1973
Fresh market[1] (1967=100)	122	138	130	December 1973
Commercial vegetables (1967=100)	116	137	116	December 1973
Fresh market (1967=100)	131	162	132	December 1973
Potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and dry edible beans (1967=100)	121	208	223	December 1973
Livestock and products (1967=100)	134	178	178	December 1973
Meat animals (1967=100)	147	198	180	December 1973
Dairy products (1967=100)	120	138	169	December 1973
Poultry and eggs (1967=100)	103	175	189	December 1973
Wool (1967=100)	90	204	191	December 1973
All prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and farm wage rates (1967=100)	123	145	153	December 1973
Family maintenance (1967=100)	124	138	146	December 1973
Farm production (1967=100)	122	146	156	December 1973
Interest (1967=100)	151	165	165	December 1973
Taxes (1967=100)	152	161	161	December 1973
Wage rates (1967=100)	142	155	161	December 1973
Ratio[2] (1967=100)	100	118	120	December 1973
Farm Income:				
Volume of farm marketings (1967=100)	112	---	106	[3]
Cash receipts from farm marketings ($bil.)	60.7	---	84.5	[3]
Realized gross farm income ($bil.)	68.9	---	91.4	[3]
Production expenses ($bil.)	49.2	---	65.9	[3]
Realized net farm income ($bil.)	19.7	---	25.5	[3]
Agricultural Trade:				
U.S. exports (bil.)	9.4	---	15.7	Jan.-Nov. 1973
U.S. imports ($bil.)	6.5	---	7.7	Jan.-Nov. 1973
Income and Spending:				
Disposable personal income, total ($bil.)	797.0	---	890.9	[3]
Expenditures for food ($bil.)	125.0	---	141.6	[3]
Share of income spent for food (percent)	15.7	---	15.9	[3]
Farms and Farmland:				
Number of farms (thousands)	2,870	2,844	2,821	January 1974
Land in farms (mil. acres)	1,093	1,090	1,087	January 1974
Average size of farms (acres)	381	383	385	January 1974

[1]Fresh market for noncitrus and fresh market and processing for citrus.
[2]Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.
[3]Annual rate, seasonally adjusted third quarter.

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